

Policy for funding creative and performing arts projects
(instituted 9/20/2011, updated 2023)



Based on criteria that it has established, Humanities Nebraska (HN) will not fund creative or performing arts unless the project includes a significant humanities-based educational component.

To be considered a significant humanities-based educational project for HN funding the goal of an event or experience should be to help the audience understand and discuss values, history and social context. The experience or event must be accompanied by some form of facilitated learning in order to give the audience something to think about in addition to something to enjoy.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has defined the humanities as including, but not limited to, history, literature, languages, jurisprudence, philosophy, comparative religion, archaeology, ethics, the social sciences when they employ humanistic perspectives, and the history, theory and criticism of the arts.

Creative and performing arts include but are not limited to creation or performance of music/songs, dance, theater, powwows, painting and drawing, and other visual arts.

Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to the following:

A pre-performance talk by a scholar describing the culture and the times that influenced William Shakespeare

Facilitated discussion with accompanying performance that presents the historical and social context of opera and the role of opera in today's culture

Presentation and discussion of the various musical traditions and instruments of ancient and contemporary cultures

Workshops that introduce students to the values, principles and history of African society and life through the study of traditional storytelling, dance, drumming and music

Lecture-recital program exploring the evolution of American roots music

Workshops for high school students that incorporate the history and cultural influence of photography with photography training

Talks given by Native American presenters recognized for their knowledge of the history and cultural impact of dance in Native American societies followed by dance and drum exhibition

Presentation of the history of a community that results in art that portrays that history

Living history portrayal of a historical figure ending in discussion with a scholar

A series of talks about the historical, social and critical context of paintings in a gallery exhibit

Writing workshops that include discussion of the human condition, such as workshops on character development, motivation, conflict and resolution, and historical context.

Examples of ineligible projects:

Performance-only programming

Art classes focusing on creative technique

Workshops addressing the mechanics and business of writing

Music or dance performances that do not include a formal presentation of the history and cultural meaning of the dance or music

If you have questions about eligibility please contact HN staff.

(creative and performing arts projects that are ineligible for HN funding may be eligible for **Nebraska Arts Council** funding) <http://www.nebraskaartscouncil.org>

Considerations for an application to HN

The application should demonstrate that a humanities scholar will be involved in planning to ensure that the humanities are well represented in the project. The application should thoroughly explain how the performing or creative arts component will complement and enhance the humanities aspect.

Budget guidelines

HN funds may be requested to pay humanities scholars and presenters and their travel (when necessary), publicity to develop an audience, and resources needed to facilitate learning. Some funding of performers may be requested as needed to illustrate the educational component. HN cannot fund competition or prizes.